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WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE COTTON MARKET

Prices Worked Into Lowest Ground Since Last Fall—Big Stocks of Cotton Have Accumulated in Warehouses.

New York, Feb. 18.—The cotton market was extremely unsettled during the past week and prices worked into the lowest ground reached since early last autumn, as the result of heavy near-month liquidation. March contracts sold as low as 11.32 on the break of Thursday, or \$6.65 per bale under the high level of last month and more than \$10 a bale under the high records of the season.

Renewed nervousness over international politics, the continued scarcity of ocean tonnage, apprehensions of increased acreage and the usual vague rumors of increased spot offerings have doubtless contributed to the possibility of heavy March notices next Thursday. Large stocks of cotton have accumulated in the local warehouses.

Southern spot advices have been conflicting, but a number of reports were received here today that only hedged cotton was offering at the decline and the market was less active at the close of the week. Further floods have been reported in the Mississippi valley, but the talk around the ring reflected little or no change of opinion with reference to new crop or acreage prospects.

TAX COMMISSION WILL TEST RIGHT OF COURT

Little Rock, Feb. 19.—The Tax Commission will bring a suit at once in Garland chancery court to test the right of the county court to make a reduction of several thousand dollars in the assessments of Hot Springs public utility corporations.

ARE PLACING BIG COFFERDAM TO REPAIR MIDDLE SPAN BRIDGE

Camden, Ark., Feb. 18.—A cofferdam is being placed around the pier under the middle section of the Martin Free Bridge here, preparatory to removing the old pier and building a new one. The old one is leaning many inches upstream. County Judge E. B. McCall has held up the last payment until the cost of repairing is ascertained. This sum will not cover the cost by any means, and it is likely that the county will file suit to recover from the original builders.

BUNCH PROFESSIONAL POLITICIANS UNEASY

Hogan Oliver, Candidate State Auditor, After Dr. Dickinson—Records Show Stoddard is "Fully Equipped."

Little Rock, Feb. 19.—There is a very uneasy bunch of professional politicians in Little Rock. William Stoddard, Deputy State Auditor, and manipulator, given full credit for the disappearance of returned poll tax receipts, and manager of the campaign of Dr. F. Dickinson for nomination as State Auditor, is one of the most anxious of the bunch.

Hogan Oliver, candidate for State Auditor, and possessing the nerve to go before the people without the unjust claim of being a candidate for "re-election," is right after Dr. Dickinson for his extreme loyalty to Stoddard. Like the well advertised cereal slogan, "There's a reason." Dr. Dickinson would hardly continue Stoddard in office unless he approved of his actions, and the records of Craighead county show that D. Stoddard is fully equipped for anything in the political line that is desired. The records show indictments against Stoddard for burglary and grand larceny, embezzlement, murder, trespass and countless charges of "bootlegging." With this record behind him, Stoddard came to Little Rock and entered state politics. He is now as busy as a bee trying to find flaws in the life of Hogan Oliver, but there being none, he has endeavored to manufacture them, and signally failed.

Sheriff Tom Edwards of Sevier county says Stoddard offered him the left over poll tax receipts from that county, but he refused them. Stoddard endeavors to lay on a clerk in the office the blame for the disappearance of the tax receipts, but Rev. E. J. A. McKinney, of the Baptist Advance, and W. D. Crawford, for years Supreme Court reporter, who witnessed the actions of Stoddard in trying to prevent the opening of the desk in which the tax receipts were kept, do not agree with him in his claims. They say that Stoddard's actions speak much louder than his denials.

Where there is so much smoke there must be fire. Less than five months after Dr. Dickinson was appointed to office the legislative investigating committee failed to find anything to compliment in his office, censuring him instead, and now the new charges are fanning public opinion to flame. This means the election of Oliver by a tremendous majority.

HANS SCHMIDT DIES IN ELECTRIC CHAIR

Former Priest, Convicted of Murdering Anna Aumuller, Meets Fate Calmly Yesterday at Sing Sing Prison.

Ossining, N. Y., Feb. 18.—Hans Schmidt was electrocuted at Sing Sing prison today for the murder of Anna Aumuller, September 2, 1913.

Schmidt went quietly to the death chamber, accompanied by the principal keeper and the Rev. Father Cashin, the prison chaplain. Leaving the death cell, he said good-bye to those who remained.

When he entered the chamber, the guards attempted to direct him toward the chair, but Schmidt gently shook them off and insisted upon addressing the 17 witnesses. The guards desisted from their efforts, and with Father Cashin standing at one side and the keeper at the other, Schmidt said:

"Gentlemen, I ask forgiveness of all those I have injured or scandalized. I forgive all who have injured me. My last wish is to say good-bye to my dear old mother."

Schmidt then seated himself in the electric chair, and the current was applied three times. Within a minute he was dead. He had spent the night up to midnight in praying and talking with Father Cashin and slept from midnight to 5 o'clock, when he was awakened for breakfast. He would take only a cup of coffee.

Story of the Crime.

When the torso of Anna Aumuller's body was washed up on the New Jersey shore of the Hudson river, there started a search which has had but few parallels in the annals of New York crime. There was but one faint clue, a pillow slip on which was embroidered the letter "A," but it was just such a pillow slip as might be found in hundreds of homes or stores. There was not even a laundry mark to aid the police.

With this slender clue, Inspector Faurot took personal charge of the case, and on September 14, 1913—12 days after the murder—Hans Schmidt an assistant priest at an uptown church, was arrested and charged with the crime. An hour before the arrest, the inspector had broken into a flat and found a long-bladed butcher's knife and other evidence that the murder had been committed there. Schmidt confessed, and his sole defense was that it was a "blood sacrifice" murder. The body had been dismembered and presumably afterward it was thrown into the river, although the head was never found.

Schmidt was twice placed on trial, the first jury in December, 1913, failing to reach a verdict. In February 1915, he was found guilty.

Besides the sordid story of Anna Aumuller's infatuation for Schmidt the trials revealed that his was a career of crime. He was engaged in a counterfeiting scheme at the time the murder was committed, it developed, and "Dr." A. Muret, who posed as a dentist, was sent to prison for seven years as Schmidt's accomplice in the latter's scheme. It was found that Schmidt also had posed as a physician, that he had committed forgery on numerous occasions and that he had been guilty of various other acts of fraud.

His attorneys pleaded their client was insane. The slayer, however, always contended that he was sane. He took no active part in his own defense. When he was sentenced he thanked the court and expressed a desire to be executed at once. He maintained the same stolid composure through all the various stages of his case.

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LAST NOTE OF GER- MANY DENOUNCED

American Diplomatic and Consular Officials Notified Entente Allies Are Within Rights in Arming of Merchant Ships.

Washington, Feb. 18.—Germany's announced intention of destroying without warning armed merchant ships of her enemies was scathingly denounced in the senate today by Republican senators, who declared that for the United States to acquiesce in such practice would be humiliating and a step toward war.

Senator Lodge, reviewed international law relating to the arming of merchantmen for defense and declared it was inconceivable that the United States at this time would abandon a principle for which it has always stood.

Senator Sterling followed with a speech assailing Germany and charging that the American government in its recent memorandum to the entente suggesting that the disarming of merchantmen had put forward a dangerous principle and had encouraged, if not invited, the action of Germany.

Senator Thomas read into the records today's news dispatches announcing the state department regarding Germany's notice regarding armed ships as inconsistent with previous assurances as to the conduct of submarine warfare and would accept nothing short of a full and complete agreement to the high principle for which the American government has contended.

Senator Stone, gave notice later that he would discuss the submarine situation next week and would take occasion to criticize a written speech by Elihu Root on the administration's foreign policy.

Are Within Rights.

Washington, Feb. 18.—All American diplomatic and consular officials have been notified that the disposition of the United States is that merchant ships have a right to carry defensive armament. This move, it became known today, is the first formal announcement that the United States does not accept as legal the announced intention to sink armed merchant ships without warning or as coming within international law.

PLAIN BILL SIMPSON.

Akron, Ohio, Feb. 19.—When William F. Simpson enlisted in the United States Marine Corps he named as his next of kin, Plain Bill Simpson, father, of Salisbury, Md. "Plain" is the father's first name young Simpson explained, and everyone in Salisbury calls him just "Jlain Bill Simpson."

MARKET RALLIES TO A SLIGHT ADVANCE

After Early Loss Prices Start Back Up—Close 1-4 Points Gain—Showed Continued Nervousness.

New York, Feb. 18.—The cotton market showed continued nervousness today, but the selling was much less active than yesterday, and after an early decline to 11.64c for May contracts the market rallied, with that delivery closing at 11.77c. The general list closed steady at a net advance of 1 to 4 points.

Liverpool was better than due, but there appeared to be a good many overnight selling orders around the ring here and after opening barely steady, at a decline of 3 to 8 points, active months sold 7 to 11 points under last night's closing figures. Houses with Liverpool connections were large buyers, particularly of July, on a scale down, while local spot houses seemed to be willing buyers of March at 25 points under May, and there was a further scattering demand from recent local sellers, as well as considerable buying that was supposed to be against price fixing by spinners. The market steadied consequently and trading later was less active. Closing prices were at practically the best point of the day.

The Liverpool buying here was supposed to reflect a further reduction of the straddle short interest in old crop deliveries and Liverpool also bought October, but was a moderate seller of later months.

Cotton closed steady.

SPECIAL DEPUTY PUGH FILES REPORT

Little Rock, Feb. 19.—R. E. Pugh, special deputy Bank Commissioner, has filed his report for the Bank of Pine Bluff, from July 3, 1914, when he took possession, to Feb. 17, 1916. It is a most complete and comprehensive report, showing every transaction in detail.

The total amount of the assets taken over by Mr. Pugh was \$967,804.43. He has collected and disbursed a total of \$624,399.23. A total of \$642,065.85 of the assets was sold to C. H. Triplett at about 50 cents on the dollar, and he has paid on the purchase a total of \$46,711.18. The assets still remaining are the balance unpaid on the Triplett notes, amounting to about \$300,000. The special commissioner has paid bills payable amounting to \$113,913.87, and dividends amounting to \$239,323.90. He has collected \$72,482.80 on the 100 per cent assessment and suits are pending on the balance of about \$28,000. In addition to the original assets of the institution there has come into his possession from other sources a total of \$97,867.22.

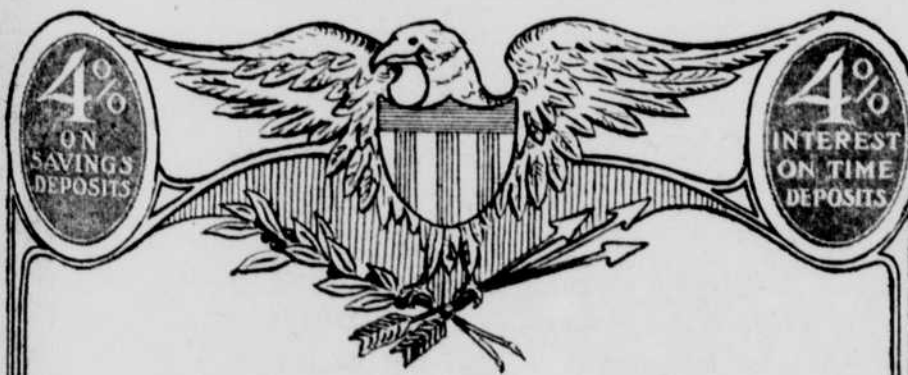
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